***The Scarlet Letter: Questions for Chapters 21-24 (pages 215-250)***

Directions: Please answer the following questions as you read the assigned chapters.

***Chapter 21***

1. Why have Hester and Pearl gone into town three days after their forest meeting with Dimmesdale?

2. Why does Pearl call Dimmesdale a “strange, sad man”?

3. What does the narrator say that his contemporary New Englanders are still ignorant of?

4. What news does the ship captain have for Hester?

***Chapter 22***

1. As he walks into the meeting house, what effect does Dimmesdale have on Hester?

2. How does Pearl behave when she sees Hester’s reaction to the minister’s passing by?

3. Who does what no one else in Boston would do and strike up a public conversation with Hester?

4. What message is Pearl told to take to her mother?

5. Why does Hester become a center of public attention?

***Chapter 23***

1. What do Dimmesdale’s parishioners infer from his sermon?

2. What symbol do some people see on Dimmesdale’s chest?

3. What does Pearl finally accept from Dimmesdale?

4. How does Dimmesdale’s confession affect Chillingworth?

5. How does Dimmesdale die?

6. Of the four main characters in the novel, only one never ascends the scaffold. Who is it?

***Chapter 24***

1. Did everyone who watched Dimmesdale’s confession on the platform see the same thing?

2. How long does Chillingworth live after Dimmesdale’s death?

3. Whom does Chillingworth name in his will as heir to his property?

4. After her return to Boston, what does Hester do with her scarlet letter?

5. What new role does Hester occupy after her return to Boston?